

Message Text

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21-12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W
----- 129149
P 030345Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7182

S E C R E T TOKYO 12737

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, JA
SUBJ: CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS TRANSIT OF ALASKA ENROUTE
TO SPAIN

REF: STATE 194511

1. OUR EFFORTS AT DESCREET INQUIRY LED ULTIMATELY TO INFORMAL SESSION WITH FONOFF DEPUTY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL NOMURA, WHO DESPITE LIAISON WITH IMPERIAL HOUSEHOLD HAD ONLY GENERAL IMPRESSION OF CROWN PRINCE'S DESIRES DURING STOPOVERS IN ANCHORAGE. NOMURA DID CONFIRM DATES AND ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE TIMES FOR BOTH STOPS, AS CITED REFTTEL, AND FACT THAT CROWN PRINCE DOES NOT WISH TO BE BURDEN TO US AUTHORITIES. OTHERWISE, REQUIREMENTS CAME DOWN TO FOLLOWING.

2. SIGHTSEEING -- CP CONSIDERS THREE HOURS TIME TOO SHORT TO DO MUCH, SO HE HAS ONLY ONE SIGHTSEEING OBJECTIVE -- A GLACIER. EMBOFF NOTED THAT OVERFLIGHT OF ALASKA WILL PROVIDE QUITE INTERESTING VIEWS OF GLACIERS, BUT APPARENTLY CP WOULD LIKE CLOSER APPROACH. QUERY: IF CP WERE RECEPTIVE TO SUGGESTION, WOULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO LAY ON BRIEF TOUR BY BOAT OR BUS?

3. REST FACILITIES -- NOMURA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD JAL ANCHORAGE OFFICE IS ARRANGING SOMETHING BUT HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT. THOUGH EMBASSY DID NOT SUGGEST THIS TO NOMURA,
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WE ASSUME USG COULD MAKE AVAILABLE FACILITIES (SITTING ROOM, BATHROOM) DURING 3-HOUR STOPOVER OCT 11, PERHAPS EVEN SAME ACCOMMODATIONS USED BY EMPEROR AND EMPRESS. EMBASSY IS CONFIDENT THAT SUCH OFFER WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED.

AS FOR OCT 21 STOPOVER, NOMURA SAID CP AND PARTY PLAN TO USE AIRPORT VIP ROOM.

4. FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO CP'S PARTY -- NOMURA NOTED THAT CP WILL BE TRAVELING WITH OFFICIAL PARTY OF 20 PLUS APPROXIMATELY 10 PRESS, AND SO FAR AS HE KNOWS NOTHING HAS YET BEEN DONE WITH RESPECT TO VISAS OR CUSTOMS CLEARANCE. HE NOTED THAT ENTIRE PARTY WILL WISH TO ACCOMPANY CP ON ANY SIGHTSEEING TOUR, AND PRESS WILL WISH TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR JAPANESE MEDIA. EMBASSY THEREFORE RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT ALERT APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AT ANCHORAGE AIRPORT SO THAT ENTIRE PARTY WILL BE ABLE TO PASS QUICKLY THROUGH CUSTOMS AND IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES. IN THIS CONNECTION, PLEASE NOTE THAT PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL BE CARRYING USUAL PROFESSIONAL EQUIPMENT. QUERY: CAN VISAS BE WAIVED OR WOULD TRANSIT VISAS BE ADVISABLE?

5. REFRESHMENTS -- NOMURA SAID ENTIRE PARTY WILL HAVE ALL MEALS ON BOARD SO NO FOOD WILL BE REQUIRED AT ANCHORAGE. HOWEVER, IF CP SHOULD ACCEPT ANY USG OFFER OF REST FACILITIES, EMBASSY WOULD HOPE THAT SOME LIGHT REFRESHMENT COULD BE OFFERED.

6. NOMURA WAS UNABLE TO ANSWER QUESTION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT CP WAS CONTEMPLATING MEETING WITH RESIDENT JAPANESE NATIONALS DURING ANCHORAGE STOP.

7. FINALLY, NOMURA POINTED OUT THAT GOJ HAS CONSULATE IN ANCHORAGE WHICH HAS PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARRANGEMENTS DURING CP'S TRANSIT STOP. THEREFORE, ANYTHING WHICH DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO OFFER BY WAY OF ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE COORDINATED THROUGH JAPANESE EMBASSY WASHINGTON TO THEIR CONSULATE IN ANCHORAGE.

8. COMMENT: DISCUSSIONS HERE LEAVE CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT CP NEITHER EXPECTS NOR DESIRES ELABORATE PREPARATIONS TO RECEIVE HIM IN ANCHORAGE. HOWEVER, HE WOULD APPRECIATE
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OPPORTUNITY TO STRETCH HIS LEGS, VIEWS GLACIER, AND PERHAPS RELAX BRIEFLY IN QUIET AND INFORMAL SURROUNDINGS. PRESUMABLY, MUCH OF WHAT IS REQUIRED IS ALREADY BEING ARRANGED BY JAPANESE CONSULATE, BUT EMBASSY HOPES USG COULD SUPPLEMENT (THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY SUPPLANT) THEIR EFFORTS BY OFFERING FACILITIES NOT READILY AVAILABLE TO THEM. EMBASSY WOULD ALSO STRESS FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE TO PRESS PARTY, SINCE THEY WILL DETERMINE HOW CP'S ANCHORAGE STOPOVER IS PORTRAYED TO JAPANESE PUBLIC. FINALLY, EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE GRACEFUL GESTURE IF SOMEONE FROM OFFICE OF CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, ASSISTED BY JAPANESE LANGUAGE OFFICER FROM EA/J, GREET AND ASSIST CP AND PARTY ON OCT 11. INGERSOLL

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TOKYO12737
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750018-1623
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731066/abqcekwz.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: STATE 194511
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Nov-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <18-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CROWN PRINCE AND PRINCESS TRANSIT OF ALASKA ENROUTE TO SPAIN
TAGS: OVIP, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005